

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01175 01 OF 02 280958Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /066 W
-----090666 281243Z /21

R 280912Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7584
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH
USMISSION NATO
COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
SACEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 1175

RELEASABLE TO NATO AS NATO CONFIDENTIAL
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, IC
SUBJECT: SACLANT MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON

SUMMARY: IN 70-MINUTE MEETING AUGUST 26 WITH PRIME
MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, ADMIRAL ISAAC C. KIDD, JR.
SACLANT, BRIEFED PRIME MINISTER ON SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP.
ADMIRAL ASSURED PM OF CONTINUED US AND NATO ATTENTION
TO ICELAND'S SECURITY, REENFORCEMENT AND RESUPPLY REQUIRE-
MENTS IN EMERGENCY AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR
ICELAND'S IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO NATO'S COLLECTIVE
DEFENSE. PM REITERATED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT AND THAT
OF HIS GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND'S NATO MEMBERSHIP AND OF
CONTINUED PRESENCE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE AT KEFLAVIK.
PM CAUTIONED, HOWEVER, THAT HISTORIC AND CULTURAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 REYKJA 01175 01 OF 02 280958Z

FACTORS STILL AFFECT ICELANDIC PUBLIC'S RECEPTIVENESS
TO CONTINUED PRESENCE FOREIGN MILITARY FORCE. PM SAID
THIS WAS SUBJECT FONMINISTER AGUSTSSON WOULD TAKE UP DURING
HIS TALKDS IN US WITH SECRETARY IN SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

1. ADMIRAL KIDD, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR, AMBASSADOR
W. TAPLEY BENNETT, AMBASSADOR JAMES ENGLE, CINCLANT

POLAD, AND VICE-ADMIRAL MCDONALD, COMMANDER STRIKE FLEET, CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON AUGUST 26 PRIOR TO OPENING OF ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS REYKJAVIK. PRIME MINISTER WELCOMED VISITORS WARMLY AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE ON MEETING AMBASSADORS BENNETT AND ENGLE, AND ADMIRAL MCDONALD, WHOM SACLANT INTRODUCED AS SENIOR OFFICER WITH MAJOR COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES IN NORTH-ATLANTIC AREA IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY. PM BEGAN TALKS BY INVITING ADMIRAL KIDD TO OFFER HIS PERCEPTION OF SOVIET MILITARY POWER AND INTENTIONS IN AREA FROM VANTAGE POINT OF SACLANT.

2. IN RESPONSE, ADMIRAL KIDD DISCLAIMED ANY SPECIAL INSIGHTS INTO SOVIET INTENTIONS. CITING FIGURES, HOWEVER, OF SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP, INCLUDING MARITIME FLEET, OVER PAST TEN YEARS, HE EXPRESSED PROFESSIONAL CONCERN RE ITS PURPOSE. ADMIRAL NOTED THAT EXPANSION OF SOVIET SURFACE AND UNDERWATER CAPABILITY HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY GROWTH OF SOVIET NAVAL PROFICIENCY, WHICH AS PROFESSIONAL HE COULD ONLY ADMIRE, AND WAS PARALLELED BY MAJOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. AVAILABLE DATA INDICATED THIS BUILDUP HAD REQUIRED AND STILL REQUIRES HEAVY INDUSTRIAL, FINANCIAL COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION OF SKILLED MANPOWER, OVER-ALL RESULT IN TERMS SOVIET NAVAL POWER IS THERE FOR ALL TO SEE AND HE REGRETTED THAT SOME NATO GOVERNMENTS STILL CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 REYKJA 01175 01 OF 02 280958Z

APPEAR HESITANT TO DRAW NECESSARY CONCLUSIONS AND MAKE NECESSARY DECISIONS IN TERMS THEIR OWN LEVEL MILITARY EXPENDITURES. NATO RETAINED FORMIDABLE NAVAL POWER, BUT SIZE OF SOVIET NAVAL BUILDUP, SPEED WITH WHICH IT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, AND QUALITY OF SOVIET NAVAL FORCE HAD TREMENDOUSLY COMPLICATED SACLANT'S REENFORCEMENT AND RESUPPLY MISSIONS, INCLUDING THOSE FOR ICELAND, IN EVENT OF EMERGENCY. ADMIRAL COMMENTED THAT SOVIETS WERE SPENDING QTE TWO NATIONAL FORTUNES UNQTE: ONE TO ACQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL NAVAL CAPABILITY, THE OTHER TO ACQUIRE IT FAST. IN THIS CONNECTION HE NOTED THAT SOVIETS, DESPITE PREDICTIONS THAT HAD BEEN MADE, HAD NOT RETIRED THEIR OLDER SHIPS WHILE BUILDING NEW AND MORE POWERFUL ONES. PM HAD ASKED HIM WHAT SOVIET INTENTIONS WERE. HE COULD NOT SAY. ALL HE COULD POINT TO WAS HISTORIC FACT THAT NO NATION HAD EVER DEVELOPED SUCH NAVAL WEAPONRY WITHOUT EVENTUALLY USING IT. ADMIRAL CONCLUDED BY REMARKING THAT GIVEN THIS SITUATION KEY ROLE OF ICELAND IN NATO STRATEGY AND ICELAND'S OWN SECURITY REENFORCEMENT AND RESUPPLY REQUIREMENTS REMAINED VERY MUCH IN HIS MIND.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 01175 02 OF 02 281213Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /066 W
-----091082 281243Z /44

R 280912Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7585
INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO GQUPQ
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW POUCH
USMISSION NATO
COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
SACUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 REYKJAVIK 1175

RELEASABLE O NATO AS NATO CONFIDENTIAL

3. PM, WHO HAD LISTENED CAREFULLY TO WHAT ADMIRAL
HAD SAID, THANKED HIM FOR FRANKNESS AND DETAIL OF
HIS PRESENTATION. REFERRING TO ICELAND'S IMPORTANCE
TO NATO, WHICH ADMIRAL HAD MENTIONED, PM RCALLED
THAT HE AND HIS (INDEPENDENCE) PARTY SUPPORTED NATO
CONNCTION AND CONTINUED PRESENCE OF US-MANNED ICELAND
DEFENSE FORCE. SUPPORT FOR BOTH LRE ALSO EXISTED IN
HIS COALITION PARTNER, THE PROGRESSIVES. HE BELIEVED
THIS SUPPORT REFLECTED VIEW OF MAJORITY OF ICELANDIC
POPULACE THAT NATO AND IDF SERVE ICELAND'S INTERESTS
AS WELL AS THOSE OF US AND OF NATO. PROBLEM DOES
EXIST, HOWEVERGN IN ICELANDIC PUBLIC'S AWARENESS THAT
OTHER NATO COUNTRIES ARE BENEFICIARIES OF US ECONOMIC
AS WELL AS MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND RECEIVE RENT FOR
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 REYKJA 01175 02 OF 02 281213Z

FACILITIES THEY PROVIDE FOR COLLECTIVE DEFENSE. HE STRONGLY OPPOSED NOTION OF RENT, BUT HE DID WANT USG TO UNDERSTAND, AS HE HAD CONVEYED TO AMBASSADOR, THAT PRESENCE OF LARGE FOREIGN MILITARY FORCE WAS CONTRARY TO ICELAND'S HISTORIC AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS. SENSITIVITH REGARDING CONTINUED PRESENCE OF IDF WOULD ALWAYS EXIST, AND STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE SUCH PUBLIC FEELING. HE THREFOR HOPED USG WOULD GIVE POSITIV CONSIDERATION TO REQUEST HE HAD MADE FOR US ASSISTANC IN FINANCING CONSTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN AIR TERMINAL AT KEFLAVIK SEPARATE FORM EXISTING MILITARY FACILITIS. PM SAID FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON WOULD RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH SECRETARY VANCE WHEN THEY MEET IN SEPTEMBER, AND HE HOPED US RESPONSE WOULD BE POSITIVE GIVEN ALWAYS LATENT ICELANDIC SENSITIVITIES ON IDF PRESENCE.

4. IN REPLY, ADMIRAL KIDD EXPRESSED HOPE ICELANDERS WOULD NOT FORGET THAT THEIR NATO MEMBER HIP AND IDF PRESENCE WERE INSURANCE POLICIS ON WHICH SOME QTE PRMIUM UNQTE HAD TO BE PAID BY THM. PM READILY AGREED, BUT NOTED THAT ICELANDERS DO NOT HAVE

OUT OF THEIR OWN HISTORY ANY EXPERIENCE WITH KIND OF INSURANCE POLICY IN QUESTION; HENC, SOME QUESTIONS RE SIZE OF QTE PREMIUM UNQTE AND ADVANTAGES OF IT INEVITABLY AROSE. PM ALSO AID HE THOUGHT ICLANDER WERE RELATIVELY UNINFORMED RE WAYS IN WHICH THE QTE INSURANCE POLICY UNQTE WOULD PAY OFF IN EMERGENCY AND XPRESSED HOPE SACLANT WOULD PROVID HIM WITH INFO ON WHICH HE WOULD DRAW SELECTIVELY TO OUTTRESS HIS ARGUMENTS THAT NATO AND IDF STOOD CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 REYKJA 01175 02 OF 02 281213Z

READY TO ASSIST ICELAND IN EMERGENCY. ADMIRAL KIDD INDICATED SUCH INFO WAS REGULARLY AVAILABLE THROUGH NATO CHANNELS BUT THAT HE WOULD BE PLEASED PROVIDE IT THROUGH MBASSY FOR PM'S BACKGROUND.

5. MEETING ENDED WITH EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION

BY SACLANT OF PM'S CORDIAL RECEPTION AND PM'S INDICATION MEETING HAD BEEN MOST VALUABLE TO HIM AND THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO FUTURE EXCHANGES, PARTICULARLY AS THEY MIGHT RELATE TO ICELAND. ONLY OTHER ICELANDER PRESENT WAS BJORN BJARNASON, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL ON PM'S OFFICE, WHO DEALS WITH NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS.

COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND
FRANK. SACLAN'T'S EXCELLENT PRESENTATION WAS DETAILED
BUT LOW-KEY, WHICH MADE IT ALL THE MORE IMPRESSIVE.
VISIT BY ADMIRAL KIDD, AMBASSADOR BENNET, AND
ADMIRAL
MCDONALD HAS UNDOUBTEDLY REENFORCED PM IN HIS PERSONAL
CONVICTION THAT ICELAND HAS POWERFUL AND UNDERSTANDING
ALLY IN US, ONE THAT HE HOPES WILL BE SENSITIVE TO
ICELANDIC PUBLIC'S RESERVATIONS RE PRESENCE OF IDF.
AS HE MADE CLEAR, HE STILL LOOKS TO US TO HELP HIM
BY LOLERING MILITARY PROFILE OF KEFLAVIK BASE FUTHER.

FOREGOING MESSAGE PREPARED SUBSEQUENT TO SACLAN'T'S
DEPARTURE AND IS UNCLEARED BY HIM. END COMMENT.
BLAKE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977REYKJA01175
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770311-0094
Format: TEL
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770815/aaaaalwv.tel
Line Count: 240
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1fd3df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1456864
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SACLANT MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER HALLGRIMSSON SUMMARY: IN 70-MINUTE MEETING AUGUST 26 WITH PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, ADMIRAL ISAAC C. KIDD
TAGS: MARR, IC, US, (HALLGRIMSSON, GEIR), (KIDD, ISAAC C JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1fd3df51-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009